

13 WONDERFUL NEWS

FROM

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Buckinghamshire.

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OR,

A PERFECT

RELATION

How a young Maid hath been for
Twelve years and upwards possest with the

DEVIL;

And continues so to this very day in a
Lamentable Condition.

With an Account of several Discourses with the said Evil
Spirit, and his Answers: attested by Ear-witnesses; and other
strange Circumstances from time to time relating thereunto.

*Published for the Awaking and Convincing of Atheists and
modern Sadduces, who dream that there is neither
Angel nor Spirit.*

Licensed according to Order.

London: Printed for D. M. 1677.



W O N D E R F U L N E W S
F R O M
B U C K I N G H A M - S H I R E .

THis unhappy Maid, whose strange Afflictions this sheet undertakes to give a true and impartial account of, lives at *Great Gadsdon* in the County of *Buck*. She is descended of honest Parents of good repute, and by them carefully educated in the Principles of Christianity; nor was there a young maid of a more lovely innocent Beauty, sweet Carriage, or virtuous Disposition; or one that might have expected fairer preferment in Marriage than she: So that as there is no room for the Censures of the uncharitable, so neither any place for the Surmises of the incredulous, it being impossible she or any of her Relations could imagine any advantage to themselves by counterfeiting or pretending a Possession; which on the contrary brings them onely trouble, loss, vexation, and inconveniencies, and that for a dozen years together. The beginning of her affliction was thus:

In the year 1664, there happened to be some
difference

difference between this maid's Father and a certain woman who had an evil name, but whether causelessly or not, I shall not here determine, nor assert any dubious opinions in any kind, onely relate the principal Circumstances that have occurred, being matter of Fact, to which as well my self as scores of other people, were Eye and Ear witnesses; and so leave every one to judge as they shall see cause, touching the Maids being Possess or not, and the evil Instruments that are suspected to have been necessary thereunto, when they have duely weighed the whole Discourse. This is certain, soon after the before mentioned Difference, this Maid being then about Sixteen or Seventeen years of age, was taken with strange Fits, and something would rise up in her throat like two great bunches about the bigness of an Egg; and a strange voice was frequently heard within her, speaking *Blasphemous words*, not fit here to be repeated: And if the Hearers and By-standers did reply to such voice, by asking any Questions that pleased him, he would answer and discourse with them; and that with a voice as different from hers as any two voices I verily believe in the world, she having a smooth, clear, pleasant voice, and that being very rough, guttural, and coming as it were from the *Abdomen* or hollow of her belly, but yet intelligible: and though I am not ignorant of a certain sort of Jugglers of old called in Latine *Ventriloqui*, yet as no such Art nor designe could be imagined in this innocent creature, so the things he declared

(impossible many times for her to know) wipes off all suspicions of that kind : So that those about her generally concluded she was really and exactly possessed with the Devil, and took occasion to ask him, *How he came there :* to which the Evil Spirit or voice answered, *Here are two of us, and that they were sent thither by two women.* The voice further said, *That they were sent first to the maid's Father ; but when they came they found him at prayer, and returned to those two women , and told them, they could have no permission to enter into him ; whereupon they sent them to his Daughter, and that such a night as she sat by the fire they entred into her.* Now the Family did remember that that very night, she had, as she declared, a sudden pain that seized her, and ever since had continued in a bad condition, and after a little time the Swellings and Voice happen'd as aforesaid.

By which the whole Neighbourhood and Country round about were so alarm'd at the strangeness of it, that multitudes of people went to see her, and returned full of wonder and amazement at what they had seen and heard : The report whereof coming to my ears, I did not at first believe it, but hearing it still confirmed, did at last go to see her my self, resolving to make my observations as warily & curiously as I could. There were, I believe, at that time Forty or Fifty Spectators present, and in strict observation two or three hours. I was for my own part fully satisfied it was a Possession, it
 being

being as I conceive utterly impossible that those things should be acted by her or any other person living, either by the force of Nature or power of the most afflicting Distemper.

Her Father being of the same opinion, and willing to use all lawful means for his only Child's recovery, having read that passage of our Saviour's - *That kinde comes not out but by Prayer and Fasting*; he resolves to use that means, and to that purpose desired some Ministers to keep a day with him on that occasion. Having sent for them, the Devil told him, *He expected five men to come, but there should only four come.* This the Girl could not know of her self; yet so it happened: for one by an unexpected accident was prevented from coming. These *four* desired the assistance of several Godly Ministers and Christians in the Neighbourhood, who accordingly met, and kept several days in Fasting and Prayer; and according to the best judgment that could be made, one of the evil Spirits then departed, as was suposed from some accidents I shall relate by and by. I my self was present several of these days: First she had two great bunches rose up in her throat, and then a voice followed, uttering abominable Blasphemies; upon which a godly Minister present, and since deceased, being stirred up with great Zeal and Indignation, going to Prayer, did earnestly beg of God, that he would plague and torment Satan for such his Blasphemies; upon which the Spirit made a most dreadful

ful crying and bemoaning his condition, and said, *I will do so no more* : To which the Minister repli'd, *Satan, that shall not serve thy turn* ; and continuing his Prayer to God as before, the Devil again cried and roared most hideously, to the great amazement of all the people present ; and from that time it was observed there was but one bunch rose up in her throat, from whence it was conjectur'd that one of the Spirits was departed. However, one continued his possession still, and after they had done Prayer, and were about to refresh themselves, he shewed strange tricks before them, tossing her up and down, and when she was going took away the use of her legs on a sudden. When she sat in a great Wicker chair he would cause the Chair to fall down backwards almost to the ground, and then lift it up again. One of the company bid her read in the Bible ; the Devil said aloud, *She shall not read* : It was answered, *She shall read, Satan, for all thee, and read thy Condemnation too*. Whereupon he plaid more tricks by tossing her about, and drawing her face to one side as if it had been placed to look over her shoulder, and drawn in a very deformed manner : but at length she read part of the 20 Chapter of the *Revelations*, though not without much opposition. When she got upon the Horse to ride home, it was a great while before she was able to get upon him, and was flung sometimes backwards, other whiles turn'd with her face toward the horse tail, and handled verily ; yet 'tis observ'd, that he hath not much power

power to hurt her : for she often declares, that being now accustomed to his tricks, and consequently not so much affrighted, the temptations he injects into her minde, are far worse than all the mischiefs he does her body.

At another time I was with them, when in the time of Prayer he barked like a Dog, bel-
lowed like a Bull, and roar'd after a wonder-
ful frightful manner, and on a sudden would
fling her up a great height, yet without hurt ;
whereupon she being placed in a low Chair, a
man sate upon the Table-side, endeavouring to
hold down her head, and my self and another
stood on each side, pressing down her shoulders ;
and though it could not be imagin'd so weakly
a creature could naturally have half the strength
of any one of us, yet she was tossed up, do
what we could, and at length the Spirit in a
desperate rage cries out, *If I come out, I will
kill you all, I will throw down the house and
kill you all.* I answered, *Satan, come out and
try.* He continued raging till they concluded
Prayer, and then was pretty quiet.

There have since hapned many things conside-
rable ; I was once in her company at a house,
where I was wholly unacquainted, and for
ought I know so was she ; the people of the
house gave us drink, and I drinking to her, she
rising to make a Curtsey, he took away the use
of her legs, and said, she should not drink. But
when he found we were resolved to force the
Cup of Beer on her, he said, *There is a Well*
in

in the yard, go and drown thy self; when none of us that were strangers, knew there was such a Well.

He will often talk to some of the Family, or those that come to see her, and many times utter blasphemous filthy words, to their great trouble: sometimes tell strange Stories to move laughter; sometimes be sullen and not speak a great while together; sometimes he jumps her up and down, and draws her Body into a multitude of strange postures, too tedious here to be related.

But his Temptations toward us are far more and more grievous, afflicting her minde with blasphemous thoughts. She continues still in this sad Condition, though she hath been notice of, because the report is abroad, that she is yet 'tis the general hopes and belief of the people, that God in his due time will deliver her from this bondage, and that she will be brought to the light: In the mean time she is exposed to his Cruelties, which is able to do more in the hearts of Satan, let that which is all to be done, is to fight against the Temptations of the Evil one. And let none, like the *Sadduces* of old, scoff at this Relation, for the matter of Fact is certainly true: And such a scoffing spirit against Truths of this kinde, is the undoubted Fore-runner of Atheism, and doth obliquely give the Lye to Holy Scripture, and deny a most considerable part of our blessed Saviours Miracles, which consisted in casting out of Devils. From which horrid blasphemous Impiery, which is no less than a being Spiritually (though not Corporeally) possess'd with the Devil, The Lord deliver us.

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